



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND  
MANAGEMENT**

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO BEGIN THE FY23 ANTELOPE COMPLEX-NORTH WILD HORSE GATHER

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**ELKO, Nev.** – On or about July 9, 2023, the Elko Bureau of Land Management plans to begin a wild horse gather in and around the Antelope Valley HMA (northwest of Alt, U.S. Highway 93), Goshute and Spruce-Pequop Herd Management Areas (HMA)s located southeast of Elko, Nev., using the helicopter-assisted method.

The Antelope North HMAs encompass over 852,340 acres of public and private lands. The Goshute HMA has an Appropriate Management Level of 73-124 wild horses. The Spruce Pequop HMA has an AML of 57-82 wild horses and the Antelope Valley HMA has an AML of 155-259. The March 2023 estimated population is 6,852 wild horses within and directly outside the management areas – nearly fourteen-times above the low end of the established management level. The BLM plans to gather and remove approximately 2,000 excess wild horses from the Antelope Valley (west of Alt. U.S. Hwy 93), Goshute and Spruce Pequop Herd Management Areas (HMA)s.

The purpose of the gather is to prevent undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands associated with excess wild horses and to restore a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship on public lands, consistent with the provisions of Section 1333(b) of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

“We conduct gathers like this to ensure that rangeland and wild horse health are not at risk due to herd overpopulation,” said **Gerald Dixon, Elko District Manager**. “We are committed to conducting safe and humane gather operations as we work to protect animal health by bringing herd size down to AML in order to help restore a thriving natural ecological balance on the range.”

By balancing herd size with what the land can support, the BLM aims to protect habitat for other wildlife species such as sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk. Removing excess wild horses and burros supports significant progress toward achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health identified by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council.

The BLM’s priority is to conduct safe, efficient, and successful wild horse and burro gather operations while ensuring humane care and treatment of all animals gathered. The BLM and its contractors are committed to using the best available science and handling practices for wild horses and burros while meeting overall gather goals and objectives in accordance with the [Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program](#).

All animals identified for removal will be transported to the Indian Lakes Facility, Fallon, Nev. Upon arrival to the facility, all animals will be checked by a veterinarian and readied for the BLM’s wild horse and burro [Adoption and Sales Program](#).

Members of the public are welcome to view the gather operations, provided that doing so does not jeopardize the safety of the animals, staff and observers, or disrupt gather operations. The BLM will escort the public to gather observation sites located on public lands. Once gather operations have begun, those wanting to view gather operations must call the gather hotline nightly at (775) 861-6700 to receive specific instructions on each days’ meeting location and time.

The BLM is conducting the gather under the DOI-BLM-NV-E030-2017-0010-EA Antelope and Triple B Complexes Gather Plan Environmental Assessment decision signed on December 21, 2017. Access the Decision Record and the Environmental Assessment at <https://bit.ly/42rqNJF>

Gather reports and additional information will be posted on the BLM website at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/gathers-and-removals/nevada/2023-antelope-north-wild>. For technical information, contact Bruce Thompson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at (775) 753-0286 or by email at [b50thomp@blm.gov](mailto:b50thomp@blm.gov)

For information on how to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro, visit [www.blm.gov/whb](http://www.blm.gov/whb).

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*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

### MORE PRESS RELEASES

#### RELEASE DATE

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

#### ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND  
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## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO BEGIN THE FY2023 ANTELOPE COMPLEX-SOUTH WILD HORSE GATHER

**ELY, Nev.** – On or about July 8, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management plans to begin a wild horse gather in and around the Antelope and Antelope Valley (east of U.S. Highway 93) Herd Management Areas (HMAs) located near Ely, Nev., using the helicopter-assisted method.

The Antelope and Antelope Valley HMAs encompass nearly 503,000 acres of public and private lands. The Antelope HMA has an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 150-324 wild horses. The Antelope Valley HMA (east of U.S. Highway 93) has an AML of 37 wild horses. A helicopter survey conducted in March 2023 documented 2,122 wild horses within and directly outside the herd management areas – nearly eleven-times above the low end of the established management level.

The BLM plans to gather and remove approximately 1,107 excess wild horses and treat up to 15 previously-treated mares in the Water Canyon area with the fertility control vaccine GonaCon Equine before releasing them back to the range. The mares are part of the 10-year Water Canyon Wild Horse Growth Suppression Pilot Program that provides the BLM the opportunity to determine the effectiveness of GonaCon Equine on a small group of wild horses in a controlled environment with the possibility of expanded usage in future years, depending on the program's results.

The purpose of the gather is to prevent undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands associated with excess wild horses and to restore a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship on public lands, consistent with the provisions of Section 1333(b) of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

"We conduct gathers like this to ensure that rangeland and wild horse health are not at risk due to herd overpopulation," said **Robbie McAboy, Ely District Manager**. "As always, we are committed to conducting safe and humane gather operations as we work to protect animal health by bringing herd size down to AML in order to help restore a thriving natural ecological balance on the range and protect it from further deterioration associated with horse overpopulations."

By balancing herd size with what the land can support, the BLM aims to protect habitat for other wildlife species such as sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk. Removing excess wild horses supports significant progress toward achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health identified by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council.

The BLM's priority is to conduct safe, efficient, and successful wild horse gather operations while ensuring humane care and treatment of all animals gathered. The BLM and its contractors are committed to using the best available science and handling practices for wild horses while meeting overall gather goals and objectives in accordance with the [Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program](#).

All animals identified for removal will be transported to the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Center, in Reno, Nev. Upon arrival to the facility, all animals will be checked by a veterinarian and readied for the BLM's wild horse and burro [Adoption and Sales Program](#).

Members of the public are welcome to view the gather operations, provided that doing so does not jeopardize the safety of the animals, staff and observers, or disrupt gather operations. The BLM will escort the public to gather observation sites located on public lands. Once gather operations have begun, those wanting to view gather operations must call the gather hotline nightly at (775) 861-6700 to receive specific instructions on each day's meeting location and time.

The BLM is conducting the gather under the DOI-BLM-NV-E030-2017-0010-EA Antelope and Triple B Complexes Gather Plan Environmental Assessment decision signed on December 21, 2017. Access the Decision Record and determination of National Environmental Policy Act adequacy at <https://bit.ly/42rqNJF>.

Mares are being treated and released under the DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2015-0014-EA Water Canyon Wild Horse Growth Suppression Pilot Program Environmental Assessment decision signed on August 17, 2015. The Decision Record and determination of National Environmental Policy Act adequacy can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/44NfVaH>.

Gather reports and additional information will be posted on the BLM website at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/gathers-and-removals/nevada-ely-do/2023-antelope>. For technical information, contact Ben Noyes, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at (775) 289-1800 or [bnoyes@blm.gov](mailto:bnoyes@blm.gov).

For information on how to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro, visit [www.blm.gov/whb](http://www.blm.gov/whb).

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### MORE PRESS RELEASES

RELEASE DATE

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

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Bureau of Land Management

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